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Survey finds voters think B.C. Liberals haven't done enough to curb affordability crisis

metroNEWS

Christy Clark speaks to candidates and supporters at the Elk Lake boathouse in Saanich, B.C., on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elderly woman attacked by city police dog

EAST VANCOUVER

'We don't want this to happen to anyone else'

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver police are apologizing "profusely" after a police dog mistakenly attacked an 87-year old woman in the backyard of an East Vancouver yard.

The K9 unit was searching the area near Knight Street and East 19th Avenue Sunday evening for a suspect who allegedly stole a truck, said Vancouver police spokesperson Const. Jason Doucette.

The dog, who was on a leash, tracked the scent into the front yard of a house, down the side of the property, and then quickly turned the corner into the back yard, he told Metro. "Unfortunately, when the dog went around the corner, he apprehended the women in error," he said.

"The dog handler was able to get the dog off very quickly and we apologize profusely for it."

The woman went to hospital with what Doucette describes as "relatively minor" injuries and has since been released.

He says a deputy chief has met with the woman and her family to explain the situation leading up to the dog attacking her.

Doucette says the force is dissecting why the incident happened and what it can do to prevent something similar from happening again.

"We are looking at everything that occurred and we're looking for training opportunities," he said. "We don't want this to happen to anyone else."

The Vancouver Police Department has 15 police dogs that respond to anywhere from 8,000 to 10,000 calls a year, according to Doucette.

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Spicer under fire after saying even Hitler didn't use chemical weapons. **World**

Thousands expected for rides

CYCLING

Organizers to ask city council for $250K to support event

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Two groups are hoping to bring out tens of thousands of people this summer to ride their bikes through downtown Vancouver.

"What we wanted to do was something that was oriented around bringing families out to experience communities and bring communities together," said Mark Ernsting, one of the organizers of the Dutch Ride, an event planned for Aug. 19.

HUB, a cycling advocacy group, is planning another event called Bike the Night for Sept. 16.

Both events had their inaugural runs in 2016, but with relatively small numbers.

The Dutch Ride was limited to 150 participants while 700 attended Bike the Night. This year, Ernsting's group expects to attract between 5,000 and 10,000 people, while HUB hopes to see around 5,000 riders take part.

Laura Jane of HUB said she believes the numbers are realistic because other cities that hold similar events attract many more participants: Montreal's week-long Tour La Nuit event attracts 20,000 people, a London ride attracts 60,000, and an event in New York brings out 20,000.

"Mass bike rides are a great way to motivate people to get on their bikes, it's also a great way to activate public space, celebrate community and even attract tourists," Jane said.

Both events are intended to be fun, easy rides for cyclists of all ages and will feature musical performances and other programming before and after the rides.

Cyclists are encouraged to wear costumes for Ride the Night, while the Dutch Ride hopes to work with local consulates of "cycling" countries like France, Colombia and Germany to invite expats to gear up and come out to ride.

Organizers are asking Vancouver city council for a combined $250,000 to help manage traffic and financially support the events.

Tickets for the Dutch Ride will be $20, but free for riders under 18, while tickets for Bike the Night will be $8 a person, free for under 16. Ride the Night has secured Mountain Equipment Co-op as a sponsor, while the Dutch Consulate supports the Dutch Ride.

The events will require closures of some downtown streets during the events, which both happen on Saturdays.

The Dutch Ride will travel from David Lam Park, down Pacific Street, around BC Place Stadium, through Gastown and Coal Harbour before travelling through Stanley Park, then back to David Lam Park via Beach Avenue and Pacific Street.

Ride the Night will likely start near BC Place Stadium, travel down Pacific Street, across the Burrard Bridge and through False Creek.

Cycling advocacy group HUB hopes to attract 5,000 people to an evening bike ride in September 2017, one of two mass participation bike rides planned for Vancouver this year. COURTESY HUB

> **"It's also a great way to activate public space, celebrate community and even attract tourists."**
> Laura Jane

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Housing 'huge driver' for voters

BC votes 2017

Majority think Liberals haven't done enough to curb cost crisis

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

On the first official day of the month-long provincial election campaign, an opinion poll released Tuesday suggests the majority of voters are unhappy with the B.C. Liberals handling of unaffordable housing costs.

Just 14 per cent of those polled said Premier Christy Clark's government had done enough to fight housing prices — which nine-in-ten rated as too high — according to Forum Research, which conducted the phone survey of 1,040 voters.

That's roughly four times fewer than the 51 per cent who said the province hasn't done enough, and 27 per cent who think the government has taken some action on the issue but still not enough to address it.

A majority of B.C. voters believe the B.C. Liberals haven't done enough to curb the province's housing affordability crisis.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

"By far people are saying the government is not doing enough," explained Forum Research president Lorne Bozinoff in a phone interview Monday. "When you look at those results, broken down by voting intentions, this is a huge, huge driver of how people are going to vote … perhaps the major driver of the election result."

While many Vancouverites might scoff at the news that 88 per cent of the province thinks housing costs are high — considering how dramatically the city's home prices have spiked out of reach of many in the city — Bozinoff said the real shock was how much of the province has come to share that feeling.

"I was a little surprised that people are feeling that way not just in the Lower Mainland, but also Vancouver Island and even in the Interior," he told Metro, citing the 55 per cent in B.C.'s Interior who said housing costs were very high. "It's a widespread problem."

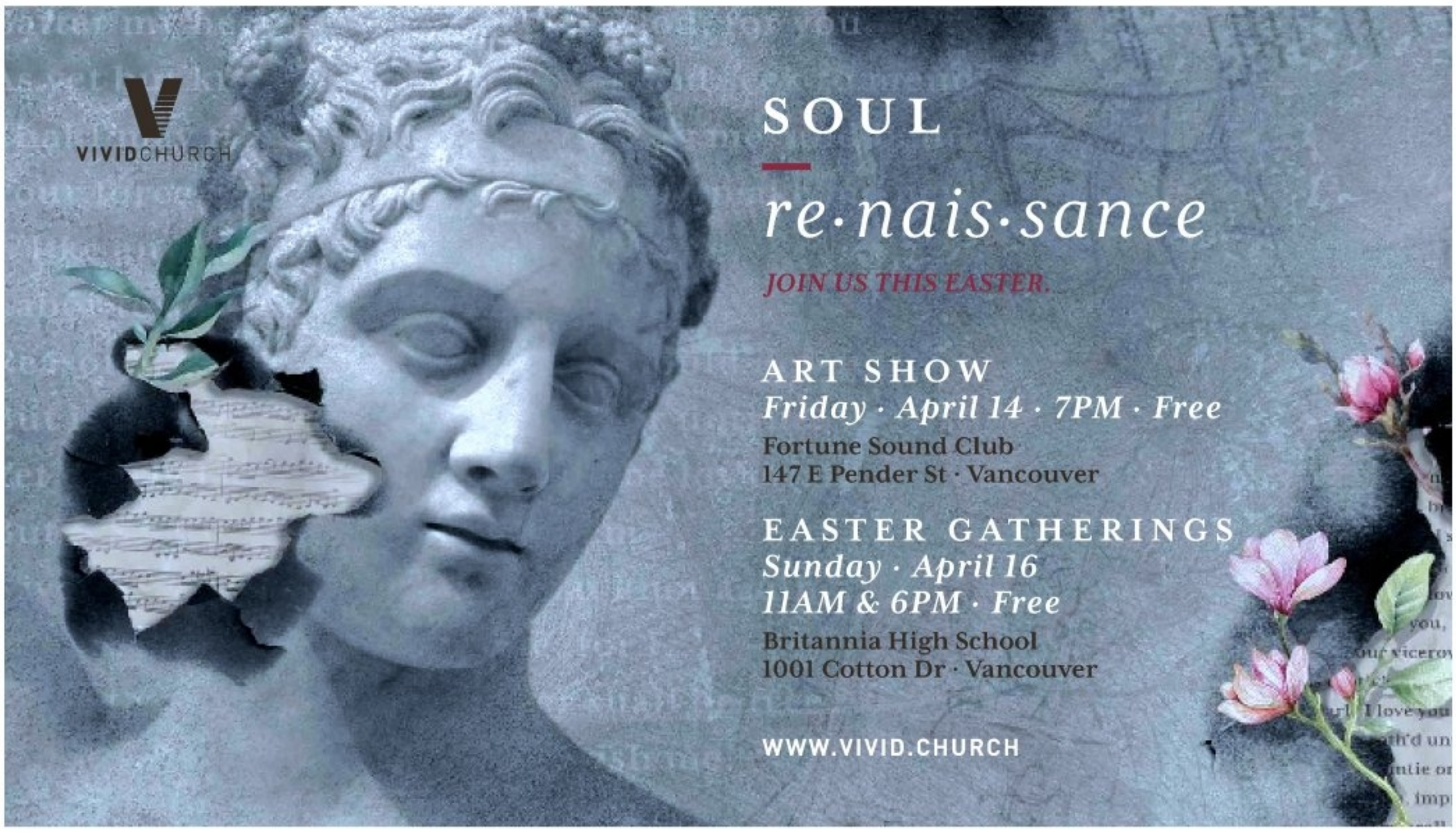
As for how the issue may play out ahead of the May 9 election, Bozinoff said that's yet to be seen as the campaigns unfold.

But with the Liberals releasing their election platform on Monday promising more help for middle class homeowners and young adults entering the market — and the B.C. New Democrats reportedly planning to release their housing platform on Thursday — the issue may be the Opposition's to lose on.

"It's possible the government has underestimated the severity of how much this problem is bothering people," he suggested. "It's a major issue and a big pocketbook issue.

"Housing is a necessity, not a luxury. We're talking about a large financial impact on people's lives. I don't know if the NDP will have a credible alternative plan for dealing with it, but this is an opportunity for them. But their plan needs to be credible and effective."

The telephone poll was conducted April 5-8, and surveyed 1,040 randomly selected B.C. voters. Forum Research stated its margin of error was three per cent, 19 times out of 20.



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POLITICS

Sister of health worker denounces premier

The sister of a British Columbia government health worker who took his own life after being falsely accused of wrongdoing says she hopes Premier Christy Clark's "callous and cynical" response becomes a key issue in the provincial election campaign.

Linda Kayfish commented Tuesday after last week's release of a report by British Columbia's Office of the Ombudperson that found eight health workers including her brother Roderick MacIsaac were wrongly fired in 2012 after allegations of inappropriate conduct involving government drug research.

Kayfish held a news conference about two hours before Clark officially launched her election campaign, during which the premier repeated that she plays no role in hiring or firing government employees.

Kayfish said Clark's apology to the legislature in 2012 failed to completely clear her brother's name, even though the government was aware the firings were inappropriate.

"You are darn right there was political interference," she said. "Maybe not at the beginning, but it certainly started while Roderick was still alive."

Her brother took his own life about four months after he was fired.

Kayfish said the handling of the matter has been entirely political from the point in 2012 when the health minister at the time alleged in the legislature that criminal activity was involved and implied the possibility of an RCMP investigation.

"This whole business was just riddled with stink," Kayfish said.

"The premier would have us believe this all falls on the head of the Public Service Agency."

Ombudsperson Jay Chalke's report said the eight workers were dismissed after a flawed and rushed investigation and didn't deserve the personal, financial and professional harm they suffered.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NDP Leader John Horgan is 44 per cent unknown, according to a Forum Research poll. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horgan hears a 'who'?

BC votes 2017

NDP leader struggles with name recognition

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Call it the New Democrats' "John who?" problem. As a month-long campaign officially launched Tuesday, nearly half of British Columbians don't even know who NDP Leader John Horgan is.

That's according to a poll from Forum Research, which also suggested that the Liberals may be struggling on trust and even their lynchpin issue, the economy.

The 1,040-voter poll conducted late last week suggests Horgan has a lot of work to do, according to Forum's president.

"The leader of the Opposition always has the problem of being unknown, unless they were well-known before entering politics," Lorne Bozinoff explained Tuesday. "But (Horgan's) 'don't knows' are at 44 per cent. Clark only had 12 per cent."

And if the recent videos of oddball radio host Nardwuar interviewing all major party leaders are any indication, Clark's charisma will likely play strongly in the campaign compared to her more stilted, serious opponent.

"That's bad in the TV age," Bozinoff observed. "It's not uncommon for politicians to be very personable in person but not come across on TV."

One benefit of obscurity is that Horgan has dodged the scorn of voters. Clark is well-known but is burdened with a 62 per cent disapproval rating.

"Obviously Christy Clark, everybody knows who she is," Bozinoff said. "But she has a huge disapproval rating. This tends to come about after any government's been in office a long time. They're ... probably on borrowed time now."

One poll question might catch some by surprise, however. The Liberals and NDP are "statistically tied" in who would perform better on the economy. Twenty-seven per cent said the NDP were better, versus 28 for the Liberals.

"It is always an important issue; you can't get around that," said Bozinoff. "You're going to get the blame with what happens on your watch with the economy.

"The Liberals typically do well on the economy, while the NDP do better on health care, education and social services. But it's actually not a strong point for the Liberals now."

Former Wall Street economist Michael Hudson in Vancouver on Tuesday ahead of a talk on the city's real-estate prices and housing affordability. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Radical tax shift could cool market

REAL ESTATE

U.S. economist says bad policy puts windfall in wrong pockets

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A leading U.S. economist visiting Vancouver warns residents not to rest on their laurels after early steps to cool the overheated real-estate market.

The Bubble and Beyond author Michael Hudson, who spoke at the Rio Theatre on Tuesday evening, told Metro that slashing sky-high prices will require more radical policy shifts — starting with far more aggressive property taxes, changing bank lending practices and ensuring that local businesses are not priced out of cities along with their residents.

"The question is: Who's going to benefit from the rising housing prices?" he asked. "Is it going to be the people of Vancouver or real-estate developers and banks?

"Because when housing prices rise, all of that (windfall) ends up getting paid to banks as mortgage interest. The fact is, this is not a natural law; it's the result of bad tax policies. All these windfall gains could be taxed, and that would keep housing prices down."

Hudson, who is president of the Institute for the Study of Long-Term Economic Trends (ISLET), is a distinguished research professor of economics at the University of Missouri. He is best known for raising alarms ahead of the American housing market collapse of 2008.

The B.C. government has imposed a foreign real-estate buyers tax and Vancouver has announced empty home and Airbnb surcharges over the past year. But Hudson says that's not enough because it doesn't address the underlying problems.

He proposed governments more aggressively tax the rising real-estate windfalls, channeling that toward urban transit and other common amenities and, in the process, shift taxes away from incomes and goods and services for regular people.

But while much attention has been paid to residential properties, he warned that a dire side-effect is the rise in commercial real-estate values.

That could lead to urban centres becoming essentially vacant and unlivable, the former Wall Street economist argued.

"If people can't afford goods and services, this can't last: Pretty soon the industries are going to leave, restaurants will close down, stores will leave, then employment will go down."

The silver lining, in his view: We're not seeing the symptoms of a bubble about to burst.

"The reason not is because so much property is owned without a mortgage here," Hudson said.

VICTORIA

Police chief granted closer look

British Columbia's police watchdog has approved a request from Victoria's suspended police chief for more investigation into allegations he sent inappropriate social-media messages to the wife of one of his officers.

Police Complaint Commissioner Stan Lowe says in a statement that he has appointed a new external investigator, RCMP Chief Supt. Trent Rolfe, to oversee the supplementary probe into Frank Elsner.

Rolfe has until May 9 to submit his report, after which retired judge Carol Baird Ellan will review her decision that five of eight allegations against Elsner move ahead to closed-door disciplinary proceedings.

Ellan and fellow retired judge Ian Pitfield recommended eight of 11 allegations go forward.

The allegations range from reports of workplace harassment toward female staff to breach of trust related to his conduct toward a subordinate's wife.

Elsner has been suspended with pay from his role as head of the Victoria Police Department since April 2016.

The embattled police chief petitioned the court last year to drop the investigations, saying he's being targeted by a group that wants him out as chief constable.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURTS

Law professor sorry for complaint against judge

UBC law professor Benjamin Perrin has issued an apology, saying with the benefit of full context there were no grounds for a complaint he made against B.C. judge Peter Leask.

Leask said he preferred to sleep in his own bed in Vancouver as he discussed scheduling issues with lawyers during a trial in Kamloops. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Greens target real estate speculation

BC votes 2017

Aggressive tax hikes, taxing capital gains among pitches

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

The BC Green Party is proposing to tax capital gains on home sales and implement a property transfer tax with a rate as high as 12 per cent for properties valued above $3 million.

The proposals are part of the party's housing platform, which it unveiled April 11.

The party's proposal would mean the property transfer taxes paid on a Westside Vancouver or West Vancouver home worth $3.5 million would rise to $236,000 (with the 12 per cent tax applying to the portion of the sales price over $3 million), compared to the current $83,000, according to the party's analysis.

Capital gains on the sale of a homeowner's principal residence are not currently taxed. But the Greens are suggesting that when a seller's lifetime capital gains reach in excess of $750,000, that profit should be taxed.

The party is also suggesting expanding the foreign buyers tax to cover the entire province, and increase it from the current 15 per cent to 30 per cent. The BC Liberals introduced the tax, which currently applies only to Metro Vancouver, in July 2016 in an attempt to cool down the region's overheated real estate market. Between 2015 and 2016, house prices in some neighbourhoods rose as much as 40 per cent.

The party is proposing to transition the existing homeowner tax grants, which have been criticized for benefiting homeowners while giving nothing to renters, to a system of income-based grants starting in 2019.

And the party says it will introduce a progressive property tax system that imposes a surtax based on property value, with tax credits available to homeowners who rent out their home or a suite.

The idea of a progressive property tax has been proposed by Rhys Kesselman, a professor with Simon Fraser University's School of Public Policy. Kesselman's suggested tax rates, rising to three percent for home worth over $3 million.

Housing in Vancouver's Mount Pleasant neighbourhood. The BC Green Party Greens is taking aim at real estate speculation in the leadup to the election. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

To increase the supply of affordable housing, the Greens are promising to devote $750 million a year to construct 4,000 new affordable units every year, as well as committing $100 million to retrofit and renovate older social housing buildings.

That promised $850 million exceeds the $700 million a housing coalition recently called all provincial parties to commit to in order to meet current and future demand for low-income housing.

The BC NDP releases their platform on Thursday, but the party has in the past said it would implement a two per cent property tax surcharge targeted towards homeowners who keep homes vacant or do not make their income in Canada.

The BC Liberals are highlighting their support of middle-classes homeowners, which has included raising the homeowner grant property value threshold and introducing a new no-interest, taxpayer funded loan to help first-time home buyers enter the market. The party also says its introduction of the 15 per cent foreign buyers tax was an important step in cooling the province's speculative real estate market.

The provincial election will be held on May 9.

12%

The Green Party's housing platform includes implementing a property transfer tax with a rate as high as 12 per cent for homes valued above $3 million.

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Cut the underwater noise, scientists urge

WILDLIFE

Loud vessels harm southern resident killer whales

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

A female orca in Puget Sound. The iconic southern resident killer whales are down to 78 members. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A group of scientists are calling on the Canadian government to limit ship noise in order to save the endangered southern resident killer whales.

The iconic population lives off the B.C. coast and after five deaths last year, has 78 members left. Vessel noise is one of the main threats to the endangered animals because it hurts their ability to navigate, communicate, and find food, according to the scientists' open letter.

The researchers are calling on the federal government to take concrete action, including placing mandatory speed limits for ships, and creating noise-reduction targets and deadlines.

Specifically, they want to see shipping noise go down by 3 dB by 2027 and by 10 dB in 2047 years.

"The goal is to reverse the upward trend … in deep-water ambient noise pollution during the second half of the 20th century, largely attributable to commercial shipping," the letter reads.

"The government should consider every means available, including regulation, to achieve quantifiable improvements in the whales' acoustic habitat."

The Canadian government released a recovery plan for the southern resident killer whales in 2011 and an update report on the plan in 2017. It also recently committed to ensuring new industrial development will not increase underwater noise in the Salish Sea.

But much of the underwater noise comes from commercial shipping and researchers have previously said increased tanker traffic will pose a threat to whales.

The fish-eating southern resident killer whales make up one of four orca populations in waters off Canada's Pacific coast, which also include northern resident, transient, and offshore killer whales.

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A 'deficient process'

DETENTION

Immigrants locked up based on dodgy risk assessments

Canada's border police have left vital records blank and said they lack the expertise to assess the risks posed by immigration detainees, documents filed in federal court reveal.

"I am not a medical or mental health professional," one Canada Border Services Agency officer wrote on a risk assessment form in 2015. "I have not received any training on the completion of the form. This assessment is cursory in nature and should not be construed as an accurate representation of the subject's risk or mental health status."

The form which the officer admitted he or she was untrained and ill-equipped to complete had real consequences for Kyon Ferril, the immigration detainee in question, as it meant he would continue to serve his indefinite detention in a maximum-security jail rather than a less-restrictive facility.

Torstar's review of documents found erratic use of the form known as a National Risk Assessment for Detention, or NRAD. It is to be filled out when an immigration detainee is first incarcerated and, according to policy, should be reassessed every 60 days. The form determines in what kind of facility a detainee will be placed by classifying them as high-, medium- or low-risk.

The federal government runs three medium-security facilities dedicated to immigration detention, which are not full. But "high-risk" detainees are sent to maximum-security provincial jails, where, by the government's own calculation, two-thirds of the total number of immigration detention days are spent.

Lawyer Jared Will has taken the cases of two men to federal court to challenge the immigration detention system and is shocked by the "lack of competence" of the officers filling out the forms.

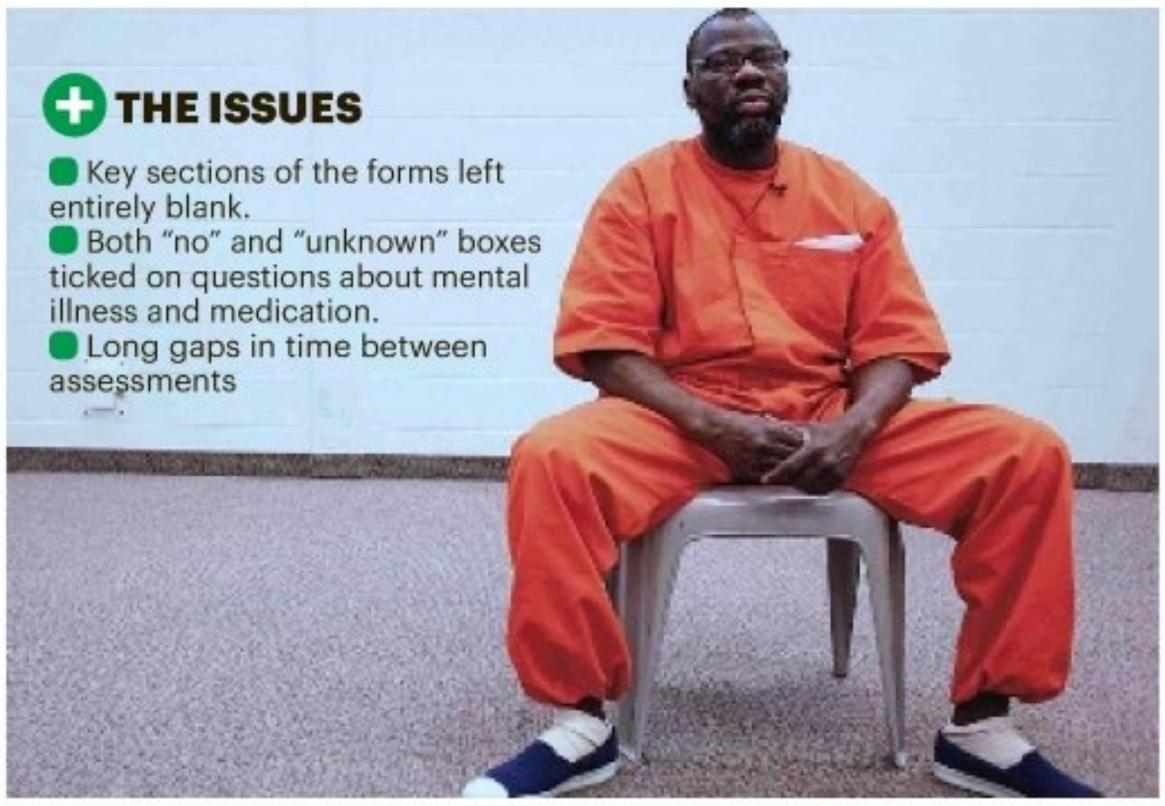
"Very important decisions on people's basic liberty and security interests are being made in one of the most deficient administrative processes I've ever seen," he said.

Ebrahim Toure, a 45-year-old failed refugee claimant who was profiled last month as part of a Torstar investigation into immigration detention, has spent more than four years awaiting deportation at Central East Correctional Centre, a notorious maximum-security jail in Lindsay, Ont.

Toure, who is detained on the grounds that he is unlikely to appear for his removal, has often wondered why he is not at the Immigration Holding Centre. He is not considered a danger to the public and had never spent a night in jail. Border services has said he was designated "high-risk" due to "criminality" in the U.S., which Torstar found consists of a conviction for selling pirated CDs and DVDs in Atlanta and a $1,000 fine for "reckless conduct." Neither offence led to jail time. According to the information presented at Toure's monthly detention reviews, he would seem to fit the "medium-risk" classification.

Asked to clarify the apparent discrepancy, a border services spokesman wrote in an email that the agency would not address Toure's case specifically, but that aggravating and mitigating factors could alter a detainee's designation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE


THE ISSUES
Key sections of the forms left entirely blank.
Both "no" and "unknown" boxes ticked on questions about mental illness and medication.
Long gaps in time between assessments

Ebrahim Toure has never been charged with a crime but has been at the Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ont. for four years on immigration detention. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ISRAEL

Transgender officer stresses tolerance

Shachar Erez recalls the day five years ago when, as an 18-year-old female Israeli soldier, the time had come to tell his commanding officer something profound about himself — that he believed he was a man.

He had already broken the news to his family, including his two younger brothers, and it had come as no surprise. When he was two, he asked his parents to cut his hair; at five, his dresses and skirts were tossed out.

But what would his army commander think? She was only 19, herself. "She only asked me one thing: 'How can I help?' It was amazing."

The answer changed Erez's life, and set him on a course to become an international ambassador of sorts for the Israel Defence Forces on LGBT rights after becoming its first and highest-ranking openly transgender officer.

It was in that role that he was in Ottawa recently to meet senior officials in the Canadian Forces, who are still in the throes of wrestling with their own policy on transgender issues in the military.

The Forces' long-awaited policy on transgender personnel was expected at the end of last year, but it now appears tied up in the broader policy review of the military. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shachar Erez is the first transgender officer in the IDF. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Training on sexual assault trauma wanted

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Federal judges may not be the only ones in need of training to better handle sex assault cases.

A group that represents Crown prosecutors told MPs on Tuesday that they could use the training as well.

"We do not get adequate training and we particularly do not get training on the trauma of sexual assault," said Ursula Hendel, president of the Association of Justice Counsel.

The committee is studying a private member's bill from interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose that would require that lawyers receive training on sexual assault before being eligible for federal judicial appointments.

Hendel represents federal Crowns, who only prosecute sexual assault cases in the territories, but she said provincial Crowns in her experience have many of the same challenges.

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Spicer apologizes for Hitler comment

POLITICS

Donald Trump's press secretary under fire from Jewish groups

White House press secretary Sean Spicer talks to reporters at the White House on Tuesday. ANDREW HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer apologized Tuesday for making an "inappropriate and insensitive" comparison to the Holocaust in earlier comments about Syrian President Bashar Assad's use of chemical weapons — remarks that drew instant rebuke from Jewish groups and critics.

Spicer said in an interview with CNN that he was trying to make a point about Assad's use of chemical weapons and gas against his people but "mistakenly made an inappropriate and insensitive reference to the Holocaust, for which there is no comparison. And for that I apologize. It was a mistake to do that."

During the daily White House briefing, Spicer told reporters that Adolf Hitler "didn't even sink to using chemical weapons." Critics noted the remark ignored Hitler's use of gas chambers to exterminate Jews during the Holocaust.

It was the second day in a row in which Spicer, President Donald Trump's main spokesman, appeared to struggle to articulate the president's foreign policy at a critical time. The White House generated criticism at the start of the year when a statement on international Holocaust Remembrance Day did not make any reference to Jews.

In the CNN interview, Spicer said his comments did not reflect Trump's views. "My comments today did not reflect the president's, were a distraction from him and frankly were misstated, insensitive and wrong." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global digest

Draft resolution circulated
Britain, France and the United States have circulated a revised UN draft resolution that would condemn the reported use of chemical weapons in northern Syria and demand that all parties provide speedy access to investigators to the sites. The resolution also calls for those responsible for the attack to be brought to justice. AP

School shooter threatened his wife
The man who opened fire in a San Bernardino school was a pastor and Navy veteran who accused his newlywed wife of infidelity. When he failed in his efforts to win her back, he went to her classroom and fatally shot her and one of the special needs children she taught, police said Tuesday. AP

Hundreds missing
Authorities and aid workers are searching for several hundred migrants who disappeared after a fire ravaged their camp in the Dunkirk suburb of Grande-Synthe in France. AP

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 70

ASSINIBOINE PARK, WINNIPEG

THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT THE ASSINIBOINE PARK, WINNIPEG. I LOVE THIS PHOTO BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME OF ALEXANDRIA, MY HOME CITY BACK IN EGYPT. WE HAVE A SIMILAR PARK CALLED MONTAZAH GARDENS. THIS WAS ALSO TAKEN ON MY FAMILY'S FIRST DAY OUT AFTER WE IMMIGRATED TO CANADA. WE ENJOYED IT.
NAAOOM IBRAHIM

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'The craziest act I've ever seen': a PR crisis for United

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Experts say airline totally fumbled on bumping fiasco

Dr. David Dao of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, with his granddaughter and his wife Teresa. INSTAGRAM

United Airlines is getting pummeled on late-night TV. Online, jokers are proposing new corporate slogans such as "We'll drag you all over the world" and "We have red eye and black eye flights available."

The cellphone video of airport police dragging a 69-year-old passenger off an overbooked flight has become a public-relations fiasco for United, with travel and experts saying the airline fumbled from the start and made matters worse with a tone-deaf apology from the CEO.

It's too soon to know whether Sunday night's incident at Chicago's O'Hare Airport will cause lasting harm. Many travellers go for the cheapest fare, no matter what the name on the plane. And United frequent flyers won't easily give up their miles.

Then again, there are those videos of the man being yanked out of his seat and pulled down the aisle on his back as other passengers gasped.

"That is the craziest act I've ever seen. Who drags a ticketed passenger off an airplane?" said Bruce Rubin, a longtime practitioner of crisis public relations in Miami. "Because it's so visual and it's so unnecessary, it's the kind of thing that can hurt United long-term."

Just two weeks ago, United was at the centre of another PR furor after a gate agent in Denver barred two girls from boarding a flight because they were wearing leggings.

The man hauled off the plane, David Dao, a doctor from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, had been told along with three other passengers to give up their seats so that four employees of the company operating the flight for United could board. Dao was the only one to refuse.

To make room on the plane, United had tried to entice volunteers with travel vouchers worth $800 and a hotel room. When there were no takers, a United manager went on board and announced that four people would be removed.

Big mistake, say the crisis-management experts. Everyone wondered why United didn't simply sweeten the offer until four passengers agreed to get off.

"A few dollars could have solved this problem," said Allen Adamson, founder of Brand Simple Consulting in New York. "Instead, the damage of the brand will be millions of dollars." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCK MARKET

One passenger equals a billion dollar mistake

4.4%
United Continental Holdings Inc stock. plunged 4.4 per cent early Tuesday, but had recovered somewhat before the closing bell.

The stock of parent United Continental Holdings Inc. plunged 4.4 per cent Tuesday morning but recovered and was off 1.4 per cent shortly before the closing bell.

Earlier in the day Tuesday the massive plunge in stock value knocking off close to $1 billion off the company's value before the stock bounced back a bit.

The recovery was attributed to a third and stronger mea culpa released by United CEO Oscar Munoz, in which he apologized for the "truly horrific event," saying, "No one should ever be mistreated this way." He promised a review of airline policies by April 30 and vowed to "fix what's broken so this never happens again." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who is Dr. David Dao?

The man dragged from a full United Express flight has been identified as physician Dr. David Dao of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Dao is a 69-year-old Vietnamese-American, a father of five, and grandfather specializing in internal medicine.

Media reports claim that Dao's wife Teresa, 69, is a pediatrican who trained at Ho Chi Minh University in Saigon and she also practices in Elizabethtown.

The violent incident aboard the United flight has reached the news in China, with many users accusing United of racism and calling for a boycott.

An 18-year-old Chinese student in the U.K. has even created an online petition calling on the U.S. government to investigate the violent incident.

"We are calling the federal government to launch an investigation into this incident. #ChineseLivesMatters," the petition says. METRO WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
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Wednesday

EMMA TEITEL ON SUPPORTING THE WOMEN'S GAME

Until sports fans give women's teams the daily attention they give men's teams, nothing major will change for professional female athletes or their salaries

WINNING STRATEGY Angela James, one of the first women inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, says the game should go barnstorming to build a fan base. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When I was a kid in the late 1990s, I attended a hockey camp at Seneca College in Toronto where the lead instructor was Angela James, a Canadian hockey legend dubbed the Wayne Gretzky of women's hockey by just about everyone who followed the sport at the time. A five-time world championship winner, James, in 2010, was one of the first women inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. She was also only the second black athlete, and the first openly gay athlete, to make the Hall.

My own interaction with James was less momentous, but maybe more profound. The second day at camp, I peed in my hockey pants. It didn't matter that none of the other campers noticed; I was mortified. But James was wise enough to see that something was amiss, and kind enough to escort me to the bathroom right away. "It happens to the best of us," she said, handing me a fresh towel. I returned to the ice dry and happy, and saved.

It was a high point in my hockey career (getting a pep talk from a star athlete, not peeing in my pants) but I've always wondered if it was a low point in the career of Angela James. When Wayne Gretzky retired he was left with wealth and fame and the option to live the rest of his life in a golden state of leisure and golf. Angela James, a woman hockey genius, was left with the need to continue working a full-time job to survive (just as she had to work while she was playing hockey), including the opportunity to chaperone incontinent kids to the bathroom. Very few female hockey players in the '90s and early 2000s could support themselves — let alone live the high life — on their earnings as professionals.

Part of the solution may lie in playing up the skills women have that men lack.

Nearly 20 years later, not much has changed. Consider, as a recent example, the women of USA Hockey. Winners of the last three world championships, (and some of the best players that ever lived), last month they threatened to boycott this year's IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships, if their parent organization didn't meet the team's demands for fair pay and increased publicity. USA Hockey stonewalled the team almost until the eve of the tournament, then finally agreed to a new deal. Henceforth the American women will each receive a $2,000 training stipend every month, every year, and larger bonuses when they win medals at major tournaments.

As victories go, it's a precarious one, it seems to me. The source of the previous injustice still remains: general fan indifference to female team sports, except for a two-week period every four years when the Olympics are held. Until sports fans — men and, yes, women too — give women's teams the daily attention they give men's teams, nothing major will change for professional female team athletes or their salaries.

Angela James agrees. I know because I called her up recently. James, who still works at Seneca College today as the school's sports co-ordinator, wonders if what's holding women's hockey back is, in part, a desire to emulate the NHL.

"I'm not the smartest business person, but I know that any business needs to go smaller before they go bigger." A good way to do this? Barnstorm, argues James. Women's teams, even at a junior hockey level, might have more success shoring up a sizable fan base if they start grassroots, touring small venues, in small towns and cities. "Go to a smaller rink where you can fill a smaller rink," she says. Of course, Hockey Canada has no trouble filling the ACC when the national women's team is in town, but they play large-scale venues only a few times a year. This gives hockey fans a token look at the women's game, says James, and not a whole lot more.

Part of the solution may lie in playing up the skills women have that men lack. Men's hockey is speedier and more violent, no doubt, but the female game is arguably smarter. It rewards strategy over size and strength. Women's hockey is plenty tough, but knowledge of the game is paramount.

This is something Draymond Green, a power forward with the NBA's Golden State Warriors, sees when it comes to basketball. Green is a big fan of the WNBA. "In the NBA there's always a guy who is only around because he can jump," Green told Sports Illustrated last year. "He doesn't have a clue about the fundamentals. I learn more from the WNBA. They know how to dribble, how to pivot, how to use the shot fake."

They also know, presumably, how to work a second job, and possibly help out young players with bladder malfunctions. They may forget specific names and faces, but they don't forget the experience. Angela James, for instance, has no memory of helping me personally out on the ice, because, she says, I was one of several campers over the years who wet themselves mid-drill. Either way, she assures me the incident would "absolutely not" constitute a low point in her career. "Unless it was puke," she said. "I can't do puke."

The thing is, men rarely have to.

Emma Teitel is a Toronto Star national affairs columnist.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Forget what the boss says or the computer allows; just be good to each other

A company pays you for your labour — not so you can abdicate all moral responsibility.

By now, you've seen the video of a doctor being dragged off a United Airlines flight. For obvious reasons, it is upsetting.

But the more insidiously upsetting thing is that we have become inured to one another: Human beings enforced the company's rules.

News reports say United requested four people give up their seats in order to give those seats to ground crew. When no one on the flight volunteered, people were selected at random and told to get off the plane in exchange for vouchers.

The passenger pled his case: he had to get back to Louisville to see patients. But the airline's agents and security had already bought into the company's logic.

And because the man had not, he had to be forcibly removed, or in the parlance of United, "re-accommodated."

Defending their actions, the police say the passenger "fell." The video clearly shows that the police, shall we say, re-accommodated him into a non-standing position.

We have become used to a system that isolates us from each other and a logic in which the state protects companies from us. How often has a reasonable request been denied because "the computer can't do it?"

Corporations (and the state) have an interest in reinforcing our helplessness. And it's taught early.

The New York Times reports that New Mexico has outlawed "lunch shaming," when cafeteria workers shame kids whose parents haven't paid their school lunch bills. Children can be made to do chores in exchange for their lunch or branded with stamps and wristbands.

Let us set aside for the moment that one of the richest nations in the world can't feed the children it is educating. Let's focus on the smaller acts of intervention.

Lunch shaming is a sickening practice, but there are cafeteria staff who resist it. The Times reports that one worker had taken to paying some students' debt. Another had quit rather than deny food to children.

Most of us work for corporations with similar logic to United Airlines and school lunch providers.

Their goal is to maximize efficiency. But it doesn't have to be ours.

Because I lose my debit card as often as I possibly can, I have been grateful for the baristas who waved off my pitiful change, the bus drivers who waved me on when my pass didn't work, and the taxi drivers who got me home safe for free.

The gap between human empathy and corporate logic is not always as dangerous as being bloodied during a flight, but it can be, which is why we have a responsibility to resist it.

The world will not fall into anarchy if we exercise more compassion.

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metro LIFE
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Michel Bublé's son Noah doing well after cancer treatment

'You're not going to fix the world in one night'

Subject of new documentary Perfume War on how to run an ethical business

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

She's a half-Jewish, half-Catholic woman from Nova Scotia doing business with Muslim men in Afghanistan. At least, these are the facts people often bring up to Barb Stegemann, asking: How do they treat you?

"The men in these countries treat me better than the white men in my own community," Stegemann says, always quick to point out that in Canada, we too live in a patriarchy.

"What's beautiful about ethical business is that they don't care what your gender is, or your faith. If you pay on time, you're good," says Stegemann in an interview with Metro's editorial team.

The founder and CEO of The 7 Virtues is the subject of a new documentary opening across Canada Friday called Perfume War, which profiles how she launched her fragrance business as a single mom, putting $20,000 of debt on her credit card.

Her motivation was an extraordinary event that changed many lives: In 2006 her best friend, Capt. Trevor Greene, took an axe to the head wielded by a member of the Taliban during what was supposed to be a protected meeting (*shura*) between Canadian Forces and tribal elders in Afghanistan. His attacker was an illiterate 16-year-old who was shot before he could strike again, but the first blow caused serious brain injury and left Greene unable to walk.

At his bedside in a Vancouver hospital, Stegemann vowed to continue Greene's peace-oriented mission. She found a supplier in Afghanistan named Abdullah Arsala who was selling essential oils to make perfume in an effort to derail the country's dependence on the dangerous and illegally grown poppy crops, used to make opium.

She launched her company in 2010 and now, 7 Virtues' line is expanded to five fragrances with oils also sourced from distilleries in Rwanda, Haiti, Israel, and Iran, with national distribution in Hudson's Bay and Lord & Taylor in the U.S.

"You're not going to fix the world in one night, but if you start you'll look back in six years and say we've made a difference," says Stegemann, who is now ready to take her company to the next level. She has her eye on the Holy Grail of the beauty industry: Sephora.

Next week, Stegemann is travelling to San Francisco to take part in Sephora's accelerator program, which aims to support women in the industry. Only four per cent of CEOs in the beauty business are female, she says. The 48-year-old will be mentored on how to revamp her perfumes so that she can pitch to the company and get them on the retailer's shelves.

Barb Stegemann launched her perfume company, The 7 Virtues, after her best friend was seriously injured in Afghanistan. Capt. Trevor Greene (pictured with Stegemann when they were younger) was attacked with an axe by a member of the Taliban, which caused brain damage.
LIZ BEDDALL/FOR METRO

TIPS FOR A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

• Partner with government agencies and NGOs
"Anyone who wants to be a social entrepreneur should have their supplier prequalified so you can feel safe knowing you're working with someone who's good to their farmers, not using pesticides, all the things you care about in your product sourcing," says Stegemann. She worked with CIDA, Building Markets, The Clinton Foundation and USAID.

• Ask a lot of questions of people you work with
"A social entrepreneur needs to be curious and be OK with 'no' and ask again. I didn't always get direct answers."

• Spend time to build trust with your partners
Stegemann says she is transparent with her suppliers, and is happy to bring them new business even if it means her company won't be so "special." "Over the years they see that you're not just in it for your oils," she says.
MELITA KUBURAS/METRO

In startup years, The 7 Virtues is an old company. One of her challenges is to show she's willing to do anything to become a global brand.

"You have to show that you're not attached to your ideas and you're malleable," she says, of the program. "If you said to me two months ago 'Why don't you redesign your fragrances?' I would have been like, don't you dare!"

But now, she has hired a new perfumer with the ultimate goal to increase sales and buy more oils from her distillery suppliers. This brings direct benefits to those communities.

In Rwanda, for instance, a woman working for patchouli supplier Nicholas of Ikirezi earns three times the income a coffee crop worker makes; in Afghanistan, the rose farmers make twice that of illegal-crop growers.

So while Stegemann's mission has only just started — she still wants to make a perfume using oils from Palestine — her best friend, who has made remarkable progress on his recovery, is happy with all that she has been able to accomplish.

"Barb completed my mission," says Greene in the documentary. "Who would have thought..perfume?"

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TV BRIEF

CBC apologizes for Canada: The Story of Us

The CBC apologized Tuesday in the wake of accusations of inaccuracies in its docu-drama "Canada: The Story of Us."

Politicians in Quebec and Nova Scotia are among those who have complained about the facts in the 10-hour series, which premiered on March 26.

"Whenever you recount a country's history, there will inevitably be citizens, historians and politicians who will have different points of view, and that's certainly been the case with 'Canada: The Story of Us,'" CBC spokesman Chuck Thompson said in a statement.

"After the first two episodes, some people felt misrepresented and for that, we apologize. We fully recognize that not everyone will agree with every perspective presented. Our intention was never to offend anyone or any group, nor diminish the importance of any of the stories that were not included."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Assessing Chinese meal options

If you feel like Chinese food tonight, should you choose the honey garlic pork or chicken chow mein?

PICK THIS

Wong Wing Chicken Chow Mein

1 serving (200g)
Calories 190
Fat 1g
Sodium 770mg
Sugar 4g
Protein 11g

SKIP THIS

Wong Wing Honey Garlic Pork

1 serving (200g)
Calories 330
Fat 6g
Sodium 810mg
Sugar 35g
Protein 19g

HERE'S WHY

Honey Garlic Pork equivalent in sugar to 2.5 cups of Lucky Charms

Chinese food is a favourite, whether it's takeout or a quick and easy store-bought meal.

While you know that these meals are far from being nutritionally balanced, one can still be a better choice. The sweet taste of honey garlic comes from sugar and honey, which gives you about 9 tsp of sugar per serving. Additionally, Honey Garlic Pork has a third more calories and six times the fat. The Chicken Chow Mein saves you on calories, fat, sodium and has very little sugar, but with less protein, may not keep you full. Take note: Neither is nutritious, so keep this to an occasional quick fix for your Chinese food cravings.

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Speak of the devilled (eggs)

Decorating eggs for Easter is fun, until you're left to eat a carton of plain boiled eggs — not much of a treat. Why not add colour to the egg whites and flavour to the yolks? We started with the delightfully retro devilled egg and gave it three distinctly different flavours. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Borscht Eggs

These eggs have a deep purple-pink tinge after marinating in pickled beet juice overnight. Mixing the yolks with horseradish and topping it off with herring, capers and dill completes this Russian-inspired appetizer.

2 1/2 cups (625 mL) water
1 cup (250 mL) apple cider vinegar
2 tbsp (30 mL) granulated sugar
1/2 tsp (2 mL) Kosher salt
1 small beet, peeled and sliced thinly
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
2 tbsp (30 mL) mayonnaise
2 tbsp (30 mL) prepared horseradish
1/2 tsp (2 mL) fresh dill, plus more for garnish, chopped
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
Jarred pickled herring, for garnish
Capers, for garnish

In a saucepan, combine water, vinegar, sugar salt and beets. Bring to boil over medium-high heat. Turn heat down to medium and simmer for 5 minutes.

Place boiled eggs in a bowl and add beet mixture. Make sure eggs are submerged. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Stir occasionally for even colour distribution.

Drain eggs and chop beets into small matchsticks for garnish. Using a very sharp non-serrated knife, slice eggs in half lengthwise.

Gently squeeze yolks into a bowl with fingers (they should pop right out, if not, use a spoon to help). Place cooked whites on serving platter.

Mash yolks with a fork and stir in mayonnaise, salt and pepper until creamy and combined.

Dispense yolk mixture back into egg whites using a spoon or a piping bag fitted with a large star tip.

Garnish with herring, dill, capers and chopped bees.

Serve immediately.

Makes 12.

Soy Sauce and Miso-Ginger Eggs

2 1/2 cups (625 mL) water
3 tbsp (45 mL) dark Chinese soy sauce
1 tsp granulated sugar
2 slices fresh ginger
3 star anise pods
1/2 tsp black peppercorns
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
2 tbsp (30 mL) mayonnaise
1 tsp (5 mL) white miso paste
1/4 tsp freshly grated ginger
1 stalk green onion, finely chopped

In saucepan, combine water, soy sauce, sugar, ginger, star anise and peppercorns. Bring to boil over medium heat. Turn down to low and let simmer for 5 minutes.

Pour soy sauce mixture over eggs, ensuring eggs are submerged in liquid. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Stir every so often for even colour distribution.

Drain liquid and discard spices. Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Gently squeeze out yolks into a bowl. Place cooked whites on serving platter. Mash yolks with a fork and stir in mayonnaise, miso paste and ginger. Dispense yolk mixture back into egg whites. Garnish with green onion and furikake. Serve immediately, makes 12.

Curried Eggs

2 1/2 cups (625 mL) water
1 cup (250 mL) apple cider vinegar
1 tbsp (15 mL) ground turmeric
1/2 tsp (2 mL) Kosher salt
6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
2 tbsp (30 mL) mayonnaise
1/2 tsp (2 mL) curry powder
Pinch of ground cumin
Pinch of cayenne
1 tbsp (15 mL) canola or vegetable oil
1/4 cup (60 mL) canned chickpeas, drained, rinsed and dried
Kosher salt, to taste

Combine water, vinegar, turmeric and salt. Boil and simmer for 5 minutes.

Place eggs in a bowl and pour turmeric mixture over eggs to completely submerge. Refrigerate overnight. Stir every so often for even colour distribution.

Drain liquid and rinse off any excess turmeric. Slice eggs in half lengthwise.

Gently squeeze yolks into a bowl. Mash yolks and stir in mayonnaise, curry powder, cumin and cayenne. Dispense yolk mixture back into egg whites. In a small skillet, heat oil. Add chickpeas and sauté till browned and crispy, about 6 to 8 minutes. Remove excess oil. Garnish eggs with fried chickpeas and additional pinch of cayenne.

Serve immediately. Makes 12.

Sheryl Crow's new album, Be Myself, out April 21, has political and social themes. AP

Sheryl Crow's return reflects new times

MUSIC

Singer's new album helped her after Trump victory

Last year, Sheryl Crow started a petition on Change.org to shorten the U.S. presidential election cycle. The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter said she was exhausted by the constant mudslinging and divisive language.

"I felt like it was becoming so hateful that I had to watch to make sure my kids didn't pick up the remote and turn the TV on," she said, adding that it upsets her that technology and social media change conversation.

"Now we have this forum for haters to come out and say the worst thing you could possibly say to someone without having the experience of reaction. We've learned to be a society without empathy and without compassion."

The ways people interact became a central theme on her upcoming album, Be Myself.

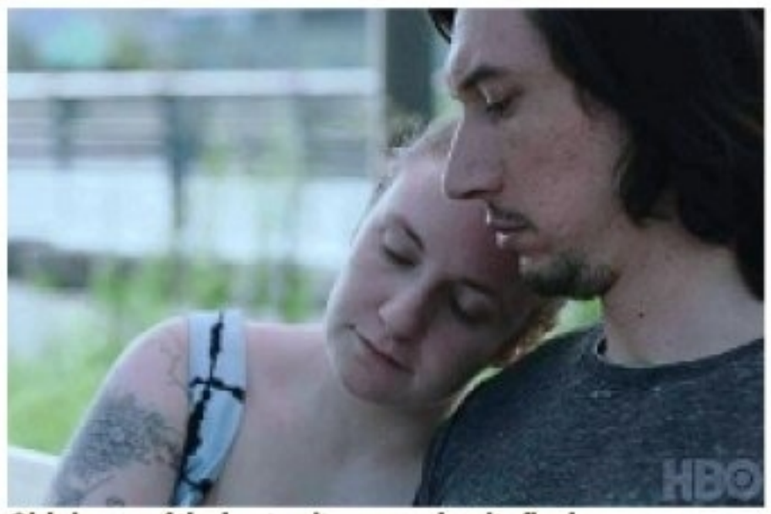
Crow said the album helped her after Donald Trump's victory.

"I started losing faith and not only for our country, but for the people that voted for him," Crow said. ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Girls still hits new heights in last season

THE SHOW: Girls, Season 6, Episode 8 (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The diner



Girls is one of the best as it approaches its finale. CONTRIBUTED

Hannah (Lena Dunham), pregnant, and Adam (Adam Driver) sit in a diner booth. It's been a remarkable day: Out of the blue, he told her he wants them to reunite. He'll raise her baby with her. She admits how frightened she's been of doing it alone.

They discuss moving in together. "I'm on the list for artist housing," he says. "They tend to favour married couples, though, so it might help if we did that."

Almost imperceptibly, Hannah blanches. But she natters on about joining a food co-op, "though I find the whole shift thing demeaning."

"I can do the shifts, if you handle the bills," Adam says.

She nods. But somehow she's crying. His smile fades.

Hannah doesn't speak. But the pain on her face says everything: As scary as it is to be alone, she can't be with him. She can't go backward. In the silence of her falling tears, we can hear their hearts crack.

Some series rise to magnificence in their final season – The Sopranos, Six Feet Under, Breaking Bad. They somehow both steam forward and reach the apotheosis of all their themes. Add Girls to that list.

This diner scene is everything. It encompasses an entire relationship, past, present and future, wordlessly. Did the script once have more dialogue? Did they pare it away as they realized Dunham's eyes could convey all they needed? Or was it always this shimmeringly silent?

That "voice of a generation" crack Dunham made in the pilot episode? Damn if it hasn't come true.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

STAR METRO SPONSORED CONTENT — SIOUX LOOKOUT

New health plan trying to fill gaps for First Nation communities

Providing medical services to an area as large as France is no easy task. Sioux Lookout and the surrounding region has 33 communities, and the majority of the 32,000 people living there are only accessible by air transportation. Covering the health needs of these communities is accordingly a formidable challenge.

Yet a new initiative from the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority hopes to unite existing services to meet that challenge.

"Our communities are remote and poverty-stricken. Their health has become a state of emergency," says Dr. Terri Farrell, Sioux Lookout's medical director. "There's extremely poor physical and mental health in the region, with high instances of mental health issues."

So in February 2016, after a Health and Public Health emergency was declared for the region, an initiative was offered via the Ontario Indigenous Health Action Plan. "We could apply for an interdisciplinary and primary health care team at $3 million a year," says Farrell. "It isn't a lot for what we need. But it was the first step."

The plan would supplement the current setup of physicians and Health Canada nurses working in the region. "This would fill the gap

CONTRIBUTED

of services," says Farrell. This comes in the form of 20 health care providers such as family physicians, nurse practitioners, dieticians, mental health workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and more. While the group would focus on children and youth health, it wouldn't exclusively serve that population.

Importantly these services are based on an outreach model. "While the head office is in Sioux Lookout, the focus is providing these services in the communities as much as possible," says Farrell. "It's a big initiative. That is why we need smart and dedicated people to deliver these vital services. We are looking for people that want to make a difference."

metro WHEELS
Your essential daily news

Ferrari Land, an amusement park by PortAventura in Spain, is now open

Cruising through the Carolinas

ALL PHOTOS CRAIG COLE/AUTOGUIDE.COM

REVIEW

Drive boasts local cuisine and Equinox's best assests

Craig Cole
AutoGuide.com

At new-vehicle launches, it's always a bit suspicious when an automaker spends more time hyping the drive route or lunch stops than they do the product.

Chevrolet seemed proud of the area roads and local cuisine we would experience in the Carolinas when they invited AutoGuide.com down to Dixie for a test of their overhauled 2018 Equinox. There was no technical lecture or in-depth walkaround of this new compact crossover; only a marketing spiel on the second day. But this apparent caginess was unnecessary as the new Equinox is a solid product they have every right to be proud of.

One of their greatest feats was getting this vehicle to shed about 400 pounds, roughly a 10 per cent reduction. The body is nearly five inches shorter, something that helped, but this change had no ill-effect on utility. Maximum cargo capacity has been increased by around 99 litres. With the back seats folded down there's just shy of 1,812 litres available.

The Equinox's interior bears a strong resemblance to what's found in other recent Chevrolets. Largely made of low-sheen hard plastic, it nonetheless looks quite nice. There are high-quality soft materials where you want them, like the armrests and upper portions of the dashboard. Front or rear, seat comfort is admirable.

None of the offerings in the compact segment drive like sports cars and this Chevy's no exception. The 1.5-litre engine pulls strongest around 3,500 RPM. Power is adequate, but the vehicle is never particularly enthusiastic. Climbing the Blue Ridge Mountains around Asheville, North Carolina revealed that this crossover is a little taxed, moseying up the hills even at wide-open throttle. A full load of passengers and parcels would reduce vigor even more.

Still, on flatter terrain or lower elevations the performance provided is perfectly fine for a large swath of crossover customers. Buyers that want more giddy-up can always opt for the 2.0-litre engine.

If there's a downside to the way this vehicle drives it's the steering. I found it decently communicative but even with the optional lane-keep assist enabled the Equinox wanders, requiring constant correction to keep it within the lane markers.

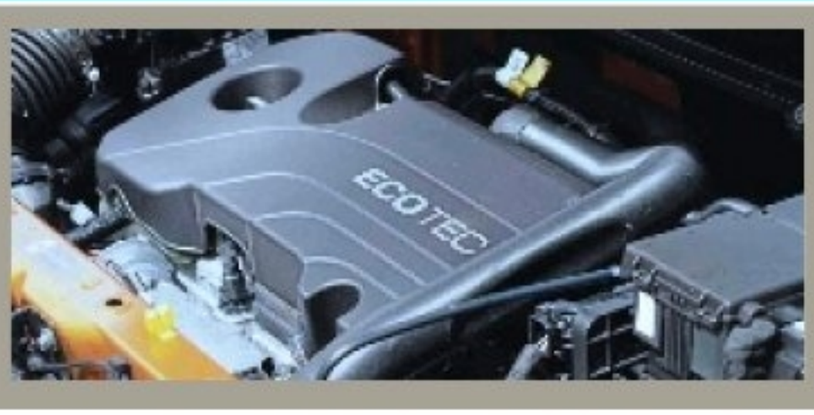
Equinox offers a wide range of advanced driver-assistance technologies including low-speed forward automatic braking; blind-spot monitoring; rear cross-traffic alert; a visual parking aid; and a vibrating safety alert seat.

The 2018 Equinox doesn't necessarily feel like a best-in-class crossover, but it's certainly one of the better offerings. Efficient and refined, spacious and tech savvy, there's no reason why it shouldn't give rivals a run for their money in an increasingly competitive segment.

THE CHECKLIST | 2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX

THE BASICS

Engine: 1.5-liter turbo four-cylinder
Output: 170 horsepower, 203 pound-feet of torque
Transmission: 6-speed automatic
Fuel Economy (l/100 km): 9.0 city, 7.4 highway, 8.4 combined (est.)
Price: Starts at $26,995



LOVE IT

- Reasonable pricing
- Refined drivetrain
- Spacious interior
- Available diesel
- Fuel efficiency

LEAVE IT

- Not as spacious as a CR-V
- Seems to wander
- Could be quieter

INSTRUCTIONAL

Know your angles before off-roading

Stephen Elmer
AutoGuide.com

When researching an off-roader, you'll inevitably run into the terms 'approach angles' and 'departure angles,' which are also sometimes called ramp angles. While you might be surprised to learn what trigonometry has to do with mud flinging, understanding these terms can help you make a wise purchase.

To put it simply, the approach and departure angle govern the types of obstacles you can drive over without hitting your bumper while ascending or descending.

Imagine a ramp. If the ramp is too steep and you try and drive up it, the front bumper of the vehicle will hit the ramp before the wheels have a chance to start climbing. So the maximum angle from the ground that the ramp can have without the front bumper colliding is known as approach angle, while at the rear end, it's known as the departure angle.

There is a third angle that is important for off-roading: the breakover angle. This is the angle between the bottom of your tires and the mid-point of vehicle's underside. If the breakover angle is exceeded, it will leave the vehicle turtled — where all four wheels come off the ground and lose traction.

Approach, departure and breakover angles are governed by a number of vehicle design characteristics. The overhang of the bumper past the axles helps to determine ramp angles, along with the design of that bumper. An ideal off-roader will have a rounder bumper style or one that doesn't protrude unnecessarily. The overall ground clearance of the vehicle will also determine what the ramp angles will be.

Some examples of excellent ramp angles come from vehicles like the Jeep Wrangler, with an approach angle of 42.2, and the Toyota 4Runner, with an approach angle of 33 degrees.

DO IT YOURSELF

How to measure angles
Take something long and straight like a broom or a yardstick and place one end exactly where the front tire makes contact with the ground. Take the other end and lift it until it hits the lowest point at the front of your car, often a piece of bumper. Use a protractor to find the angle compared to the ground — that's the approach angle. Repeat these steps at the back for the departure angle.

Approach angles and departure angles determine whether you'll be able to tackle that ridge up ahead. ISTOCK

LEGO

Build a McLaren

A second McLaren supercar has joined the ranks of the LEGO Speed Champions series. The McLaren 720S supercar will become available for everyone to enjoy in June, shortly after the actual 720S supercars are delivered to their owners.

The 720S joins the McLaren P1 in the ranks of supercars immortalized by LEGO. The new 720S LEGO kit is great for aspiring car designers, as it includes a mini designer, a design studio desk complete with coffee cup and original design sketch and a 3D-printed model car. STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

NISSAN

Police concept

Nicknamed "Copzilla," this modified Nissan GT-R will make its presence known at the 2017 New York Auto Show.

The Nissan GT-R Police Pursuit #23 features police livery for the fictional Skyline Metro Police Department.

The flat black exterior has gold graphics, police lights on the roof and the front grille, a scrolling LED light bar, a "Skyline Metro" badge on the hood and door panels. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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Ford finds way to lull babies to sleep

WHEELS ROUNDUP
News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com

PARENTING

Ford rocking babies to sleep

One of the quickest ways to put a toddler to sleep is by driving them around in a car. But that isn't always convenient, which is why Ford has created a cot that simulates the motion, engine noise and even the street lighting of a nighttime drive, so parents can put their babies to bed from inside their home.

The Max Motor Dreams looks like a regular cot, but comes to life using a smartphone app. Users can also record and play back the comforting movement, lights and sounds of a particular trip. The Max Motor Dreams was supposed to be a one-off, but Ford is considering production after receiving numerous inquiries.

"While a quick drive in the family car can work wonders in getting baby off to sleep, the poor old parents still have to be awake and alert at the wheel," said Max Motor Dreams designer Alejandro López Bravo. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

AUTO NEWS

Tesla reports record sales
Tesla continues to surprise with its sales figures despite reports of delays and other hiccups.

So far this year, Tesla has delivered 25,000 cars, a 69 per cent increase from the first quarter last year. Reuters reports this is a new quarterly record for the American electric car manufacturer.

Of the cars delivered in the first quarter of the year, Tesla said 13,450 were Model S sedans and 11,550 were the Model X. Tesla says it expected total deliveries to hit 47,000 to 50,000 by the middle of the year.

Last quarter, Tesla ran into production delays as it implemented new AutoPilot hardware, which resulted in fewer deliveries. The smaller and more affordable Model 3 sedan is expected to arrive later this year, but again, it wouldn't be surprising if it was also delayed. JODI LAI/AUTOGUIDE.COM

LYNK & CO

Concept leaked

Photos of the Lynk & Co 02 sedan have made an early appearance online. Images were posted on Adamsky Management with credit to Fredrik Etoall for Lynk & Co. But Lynk & Co hasn't unveiled the concept, so it's possible that Etoall accidentally posted the pics early, previewing the wild concept sedan with rear suicide doors.

While we don't know much besides styling, it shows the versatility of Volvo's architecture as Lynk & Co is owned by the same Chinese company that bought the German automaker.
JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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Tampa Bay Lightning head coach Jon Cooper will be bench boss for Team Canada at the world hockey championship in Paris next month

Canucks' stalwart Sedins are on board for the future

NHL

Twins want to educate young talent to rebuild ailing franchise

Sedin twins Daniel, left, and Henrik still believe the Canucks can be successful. GETTY IMAGES

Aware things could get a lot worse before they get better, the aging faces of the Vancouver Canucks remain on board with the franchise's plan to rebuild.

Henrik and Daniel Sedin met the media along with their teammates on Tuesday to pick over the carcass of a dismal 2016-17 campaign that saw the club finish 29th overall in the NHL standings.

The talented twins, who will be 37 when the puck drops next season, said despite the long path back to respectability, they're committed to the program of bringing more youngsters into the lineup as they enter the final year of their contracts.

"We've always been," said Henrik Sedin. "We understand that it's going to be a rebuild, a retooling or whatever you want to call it. It was going to take a couple years. That's where we are."

A second straight spring without playoff hockey — the Canucks earned just 69 points this season after a 75-point, 28th-place showing last year — had cost head coach Willie Desjardins his job just 24 hours earlier.

As they did all season, the Sedins pointed blame squarely at themselves, perhaps unfairly, for the club's 30-43-9 record.

"It's never fun to see your coach go," said Henrik Sedin. "But that says a lot about what we have done this year."

Daniel Sedin led the way with 76 points (20 goals, 56 assists) during Vancouver's 101-point campaign in 2014-15 after Desjardins was hired, while Henrik had 73 points (18 goals, 55 assists).

But the twins' production started to slide when the Canucks missed the playoffs last season, and practically fell off a cliff this year.

Daniel had 61 points (28 goals, 33 assists) to lead the Canucks in 2015-16, but just 44 points (15 goals, 29 assists) in 2016-17. Henrik, meanwhile, went from 55 points (11 goals, 44 assists) to 50 points (15 goals, 35 assists).

The Canucks were actually in a playoff spot at the end of January before cratering down the stretch with an NHL-worst 7-23-3 mark over their final 33 games as they set a franchise record for fewest goals in a season with 178.

"We're committed to come back next year and have a great year," said Henrik Sedin. "I'm fully confident we can do that, but that's for us to prove."

While the Canucks' worst season since the late 1990s didn't have many positives, there is some reason for optimism.

Bo Horvat, who turned 22 last week, became the first player not named Sedin to lead the Canucks in scoring since 2006.

"Definitely not the result we were thinking was going to happen at the beginning of the year," said Horvat, who had 20 goals and 32 assists. "At the same time we're adding a lot more youth."

Apart from Horvat's rise, Markus Granlund and Sven Baertschi had breakout seasons up front, while the arrival of Brock Boeser and the emergence of rookie defencemen Troy Stecher and Nikita Tryamkin bodes well moving forward.

But the Canucks didn't get much out of big-money free agent Loui Eriksson, who scored 11 goals and 14 assists in 65 games after signing a six-year, US$36-million contract last summer. And Brandon Sutter wasn't any better with 17 goals and 17 assists, including just eight points on Vancouver's 29th-ranked power play despite spending most of the season alongside the Sedins.

Heading into the final season of matching four-year contract extensions they signed in 2013, the Sedins are driven by the dream of another playoff run in the twilight of their careers.

"That's where the push comes from," said Henrik Sedin. "To have a playoff push again, to be in big games and to play in important games down the stretch. The fire is still there."

It's just hard to see from the outside how that will be possible in Vancouver any time soon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **We understand that it's going to be a rebuild, a retooling or whatever you want to call it. It was going to take a couple years.**
> Henrik Sedin

IN BRIEF

Raps get Bucks in playoffs

The Toronto Raptors will play the Milwaukee Bucks in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

The Atlanta Hawks won their fourth straight game, routing the listless Charlotte Hornets 103-76 on Tuesday night to wrap up the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference. That meant the Bucks were locked into the sixth seed, facing the No. 3 Raptors. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Explosions near Dortmund bus halt quarter-final

Three explosions went off near the team bus of Borussia Dortmund, one of Germany's top soccer clubs, as it set off for a Champions League quarter-final match on Tuesday. Dortmund defender Marc Bartra was injured.

Police said they were working on the assumption that the blasts were directed at the Dortmund team. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brewers edge Blue Jays to spoil home opener

Keon Broxton and Domingo Santana hit homers as the Milwaukee Brewers edged Toronto 4-3 Tuesday to spoil the Blue Jays' home opener and extend their early-season misery. At 1-6, Toronto is off to its worst start ever.

Troy Tulowitzki drove in three runs for Toronto with two doubles and a sacrifice fly. The Jays shortstop came into the game 3-of-24 but had six RBI.

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Crunchy Asian Chicken Salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This salad's tender chicken and zippy dressing make it a great noon time meal, especially if it's a leftover dinner because then it was super easy too.

Ready in 22 minutes
Prep time: 10
Cook time: 12
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 chicken breasts
- 1/4 - 1/2 head of purple cabbage, thinly sliced
- 1/4 - 1/2 head of green cabbage, thinly sliced
- 2 carrots, shredded
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cucumber, peeled and sliced
- 2 spring onions, sliced
- handful cilantro, chopped
- 1/3 cup peanuts, chopped (optional)

Dressing
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp sriracha
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp fish sauce
- 1 tsp sugar

Directions

1. Fill a skillet with water and season twith salt and peppe. Bring to a simmer. Place chicken breasts in water and cook 10 to 12 minutes, depending on how thick the breasts are. Remove and place on a clean plate. Use two forks to shred the chicken.

2. In a small bowl, whisk together dressing ingredients. In a large serving bowl, toss together vegetables and chicken. Drizzle dressing over salad and toss again.

3. Serve salad in bowls and garnish with cilantro and chopped peanuts.

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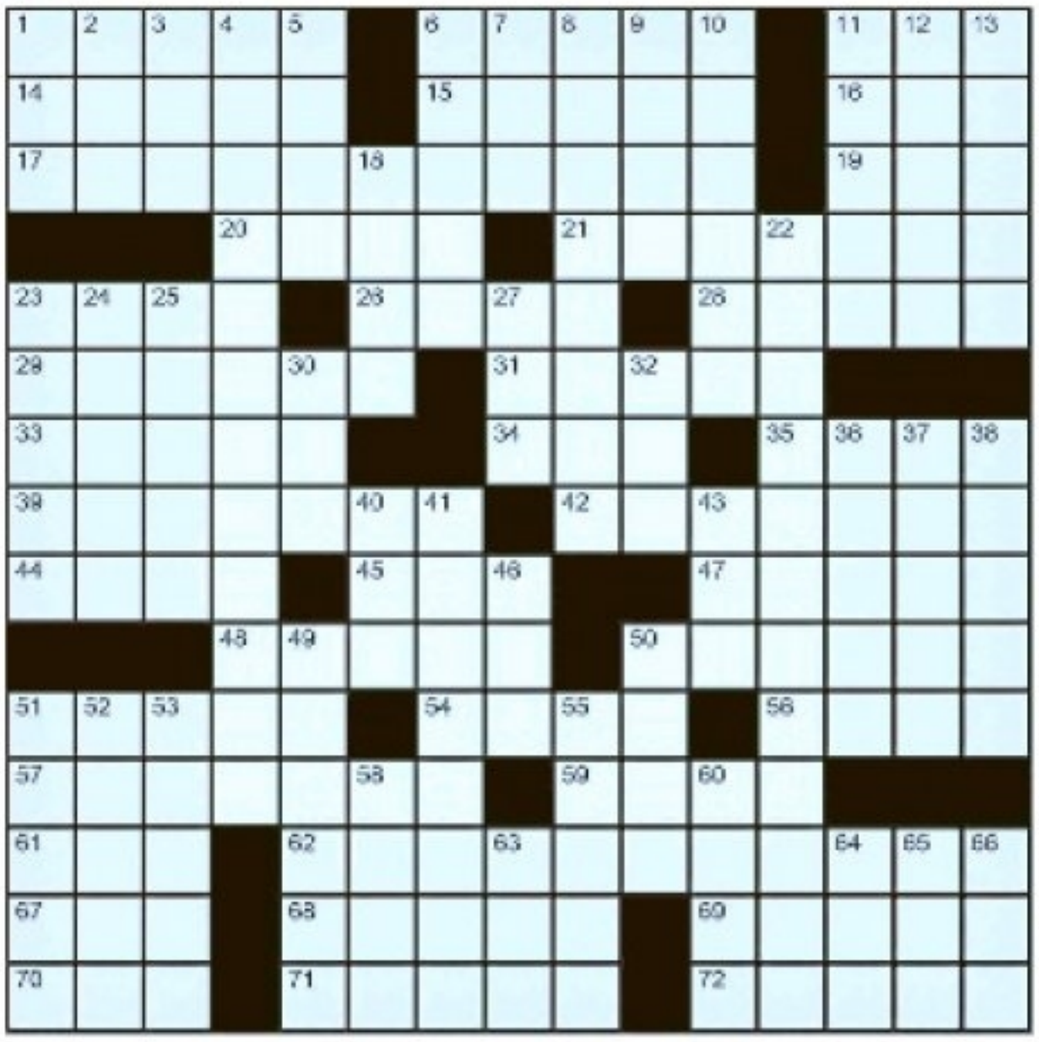
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. As such, Latin-style: 2 wds.
6. Harmonize
11. __-Jongg
14. Basketball great Shaquille
15. Cheerful
16. Expert
17. Entree at a Passover supper: 2 wds.
19. Bus or train, e.g.
20. Orderly
21. Toronto-born NHL head coach who is an Honoured Member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, Roger __ (b.1934 - d.2003)
23. House's li'l bottom
26. Cat's call
28. Cutlass __ (Former Oldsmobile model)
29. Not translucent
31. Last but not __
33. Maple serving
34. Father
35. Do this as Springtime snow
39. La Seigneurie de l'Ile d'__ (Botanical oasis in Quebec)
42. Painting like the real thing
44. Midday
45. Sport-__ (Versatile vehicle)
47. Leases
48. Pink Lady's date in "Grease" (1978)
50. Smitten: 2 wds.
51. Bing Crosby/Bob Hope comedy, "Road __ __" (1947)
54. 'Cont' completer (Italian noblewoman)
56. George Harrison's "__ It a Pity"
57. Eileen of "Private Benjamin" (1980)
59. Fe
61. French for 'goose'
62. Particular party in Springtime, such as at #4-Down: 2 wds.
67. Head motion for 'yes'
68. Cavern
69. Prefix to 'metre'
70. Nav. rank
71. "With this ring __ wed."
72. 'Delete' the pencil marks

DOWN
1. Disc in a 1990s fad game
2. 'Carot' completer
3. CFL official
4. New Brunswick town which is home to the Maple Capital of Atlantic Canada Festival, this year from April 11th to April 16th
5. Vogue competitor
6. Mountain ridge
7. File image type
8. London Fog togs
9. Massachusetts' motto starter
10. Morals
11. En __ (All together)
12. Donald Sutherland's profession
13. Reddish-brown hair rinse
18. Gentle
22. Pinky: 2 wds.
23. Higgs __, 'The God Particle'
24. __ the Dragon (Video game)
25. "That Girl" star Ms. Thomas
27. Antiquated
30. Kick __ __ fuss
32. Fruity drink
36. Clues
37. Ontario community
38. "Hmmm, I __ aware of that."
40. Rapa __ (Easter Island)
41. Power
43. Quid __ quo
46. Mr. McMahon's
49. Ornamental tree
50. Draped dress
51. Bluegrass musician, __ __ Burnett
52. The Hunter constellation
53. Props for clarinets
55. "Yes, __, Bob!" (For sure!)
58. Family tree member
60. Erstwhile
63. Queen's "We __ the Champions"
64. "Bird __ __ Wire" (1990)
65. Military posts, e.g.
66. "Yuck!"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a good day for important discussions about wills, inheritances, shared property and insurance issues. All parties involved will be reasonable and mutually sympathetic.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You might be able to mend broken fences with a partner or close friend today, because people feel sympathetic toward each other. It's a relatively easygoing day.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Co-workers are supportive today, especially in your efforts to get better organized. You might feel particularly tenderhearted toward a pet today.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you are involved in a creative project or the arts, you will be productive today because you are imaginative and open to new ideas. You also will feel sympathetic toward children.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will enjoy cocooning at home today, because you feel the need to pamper yourself and take it easy. Family discussions will be gentle and sympathetic.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your imagination is heightened today, which is good news for those of you who act, teach, write, sell and market. Trust your far-out ideas.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If shopping today, you will be tempted to spend too much money on luxurious items. It's the age-old problem of having champagne tastes on a beer wallet.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Neptune, which makes you sensitive to the needs of others. It also heightens your imagination.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will find it easy to put the needs of others before your own today, because you feel somewhat selfless. You genuinely want to help anyone who is less fortunate. (This is admirable.)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A discussion with a female friend will be idealistic today. It also will be a bonding experience, because each of you will listen with sympathy toward the other person.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
People see you in a favorable light today, especially bosses, parents and VIPs. They see you as someone who is reasonable, sympathetic and kind.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Do whatever you can to get away from all this because you need to escape. You need fresh air and a chance to discover adventure! Travel somewhere, if possible.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

3	8							
			4			1		2
	5			7				
9		5	3		4			
			7		1	2		8
				2			3	
6		7			9			
							8	4

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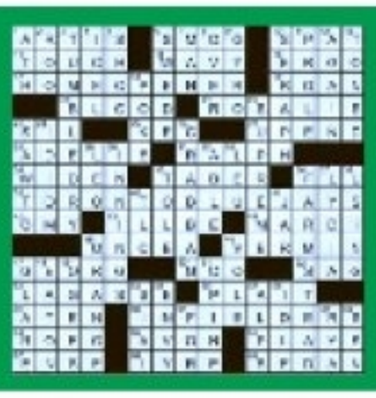
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



5	4	6	8	7	3	1	2	9
8	7	2	1	9	4	5	6	3
9	1	3	2	6	5	7	8	4
1	9	4	6	5	2	3	7	8
2	5	8	7	3	1	9	4	6
3	6	7	4	8	9	2	5	1
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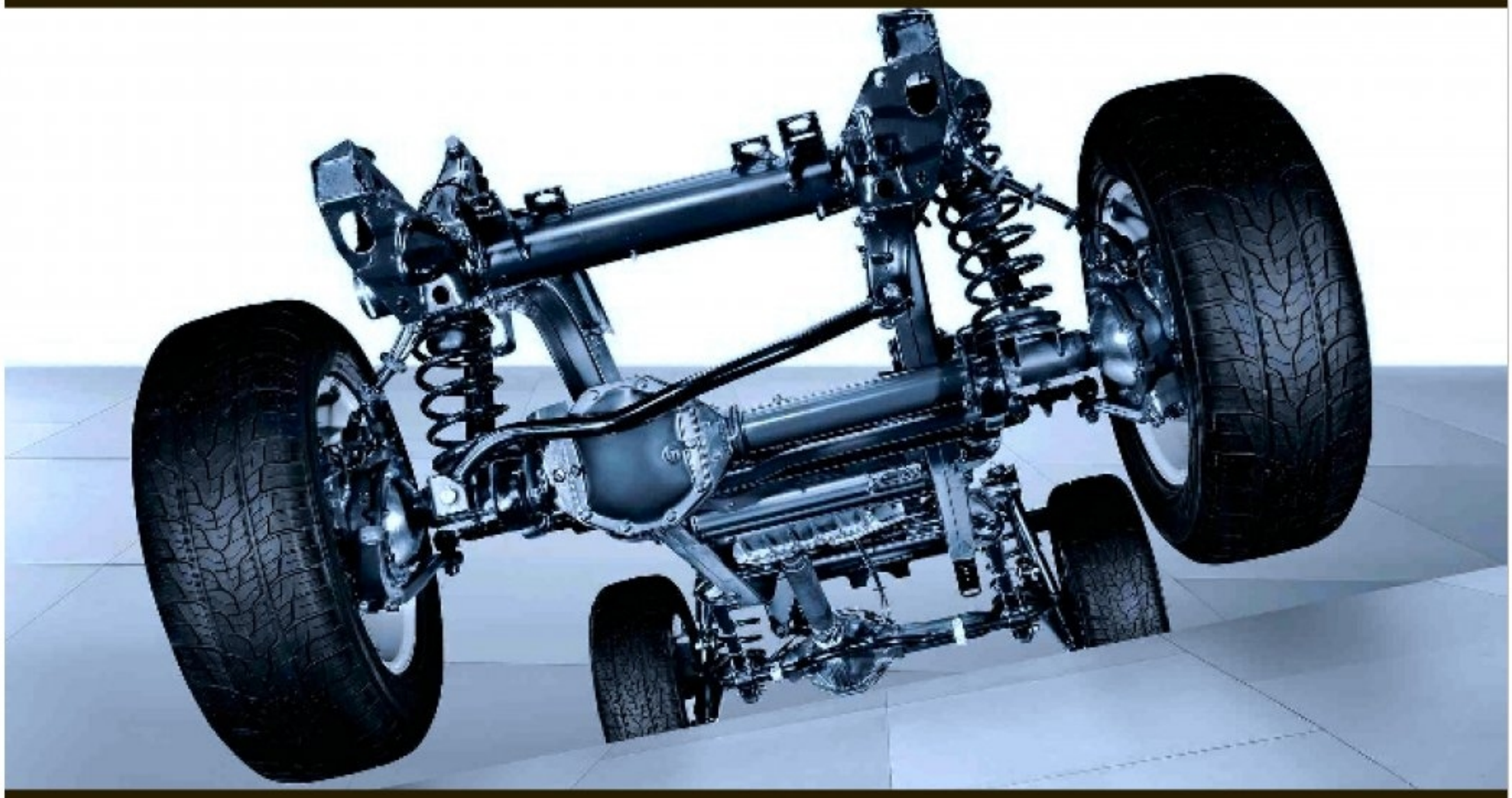
4	3	9	5	2	8	6	1	7
7	2	1	3	4	6	8	9	5



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